

L. J. Jamison

CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. FINERON, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

1957

CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor J. G. Gill.

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Councillor Mrs. G.E.L. Caswell
Councillor Mrs. F.E. Currie
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Medical Officer of Health:
C. E. Jamison, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector
J. Fineron, D.P.A., F.A.F.H.I., F.R.S.H.

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ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City and County
of Lichfield.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health
of the City and on the work of the Health Department of the
Council.

The Health of the City, as shown by the vital statistics,
continues to be satisfactory, whether judged in relation to that
of previous years or that of the country as a whole during 1957.

So far as infectious disease is concerned, the year was a
reasonably healthy one, measles being the only disease with a
particularly high incidence. Two cases of poliomyelitis were
notified, one of which proved fatal. Tuberculosis showed a very
satisfactory reduction, as compared with other recent years.
Particulars of these and other infectious diseases are given in
the body of the report.

The year was, of course notable for the outbreak of Asian
influenza, which occurred in the Autumn, fortunately in a
generally mild form, although not so mild in by any means all
cases.

Progress in relation to slum clearance was again unspectacular,
but reasonably satisfactory as compared with that achieved in
other areas.

Work on the City's new sewage works was not completed
during 1957, but has been completed since that time, with
consequent marked improvement in the effluent produced.

Smoke pollution continued to be the cause of some trouble
during the year, coming mainly from a relatively small number of
factory and other chimneys, although the much larger number of
domestic chimneys did, of course, contribute to the final result.

I would again thank members and officers of the Council for
their continued help and cooperation and the Surveyor and Public
Health Inspector for their contributions to this report.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. JAMISON

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The principal figures for the year 1957 were as follows:-

Area (in acres)	3,597
Estimated Population	11,190
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,294
Rateable Value of Premises	£132,577
Product of a Penny Rate	£576

The area was, of course, unchanged as compared with the previous year. The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, and the number of inhabited houses showed the small increases familiar in recent years. The small decrease in rateable value of properties reflects the partial derating of commercial properties which occurred during the year. This adjustment, however, did not prevent a small increase in the product of a penny rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

The relevant statistics are set out below in the same form as in previous years:-

Live Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate					110	105	215
Illegitimate					5	5	10
Total					115	110	225

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population - 20.1

Still Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate					2	4	6
Illegitimate					-	-	-
Total					2	4	6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births - 26.0

Deaths						Male	Female	Total
... ..						63	67	130

Death Rate per 1,000 Population - 11.6


Deaths of Infants under one Year of Age						Male	Female	Total
Legitimate						4	2	6
Illegitimate						-	-	-
Total						4	2	6

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 26.7

It will be seen that one birth in 22 was an illegitimate one. This proportion was slightly lower than that shown in the previous year.

The still birth rate was slightly higher than in recent years. It is obvious that this rate is not showing the same satisfactory reduction that has been shown over a period of years in relation to other important indices of the efficiency of the community health service. The problem is, however, a national one, and is being investigated on a national basis.

As regards the other statistics quoted, the following table shows how these compare with earlier years:-



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Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1946	9,082	21.0	11.7	44.7
1947	9,816	22.9	10.5	35.5
1948	10,170	20.5	10.9	38.4
1949	10,200	17.5	13.7	33.3
1950	10,400	16.2	10.5	65.0
1951	10,760	15.8	10.8	52.9
1952	10,870	15.7	10.1	11.6
1953	10,930	17.8	16.8	30.7
1954	10,930	20.1	11.8	45.4
1955	10,980	17.2	12.0	42.3
1956	11,050	19.5	12.2	18.6
1957	11,190	20.1	11.6	26.7

As will be seen from the table, the birth rate continues the rising tendency shown in the previous year, while the death rate was lower than in any recent year. The infant mortality rate was higher than the exceptionally low figure of the previous year, but lower than in all other recent years.

After adjusting the local birth and death rates according to the formula issued by the Registrar General, in order to allow for the age and sex variations in different parts of the country, the figures for birth death and infant mortality rates in Lichfield and England and Wales as a whole were as follows:-

Area	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
England And Wales	16.1	11.5	23.1
City and County of Lichfield	19.3	11.0	26.7

It will be seen that the live birth rate and the death rate compare favourably with those for the country as a whole, but that the infant mortality rate does not compare quite so well.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the causes of death of persons dying in 1957, particulars for the previous years also being given for comparision:-

	Total	Total	Total	1957		
	1954	1955	1956	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal Infections	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	4	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	4	5	3	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	2	3	1	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	1	1	1	2	2

	Total 1954	Total 1955	Total 1956	Male	Female	Total
Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms	11	10	13	3	9	12
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	1	1	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	17	17	9	5	14
Coronary disease, angina	7	13	9	5	3	8
Hypertension with heart disease	6	2	4	-	-	-
Other heart disease	22	16	27	13	13	26
Other circulatory disease	10	11	8	8	3	11
Influenza	1	2	-	1	3	4
Pneumonia	2	3	6	2	1	3
Bronchitis	5	11	5	1	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	1	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	2	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	-	-	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	-	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	1	2	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	2	5	-	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	23	21	14	9	14	23
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	3	1	-	1
All other accidents	4	-	7	1	1	2
Suicide	1	-	1	-	1	1
Homicide and operations of War	-	-	1	-	-	-
	129	132	135	63	67	130

Of these deaths, 6 occurred before the end of the first year of life, a further 3 between one year and 5 years, one between 5 years and 15 years, 31 between 15 years and 65 years, while the remaining deaths occurred at ages over 65 years.

In the children dying before the end of the first year, death was apparently due in 3 cases to prematurity, in one case to congenital abnormality, in one case to complications occurring during delivery, and in one case to a respiratory infection. Death occurred during the first week in all cases except in the last mentioned, in which it occurred at the age of one month.

Once again, no death resulted during the year from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

The death due to the motor vehicle accident occurred in a male of 22 years, injured in a collision between two motor-cars. Of the two accidental deaths due to causes other than those related to traffic, one occurred in a child of 22 months, whose clothing became ignited from a coal fire, while the remaining death involved a man of 78 years, who died from cardiac failure following a fracture of his femur. These accidental deaths, though less numerous than those occurring in 1956, illustrate the age groups of persons most susceptible to the various kinds of accidents which are becoming a feature of modern life.

The death attributed to suicide occurred in a female of 66 years, who died from barbiturate poisoning.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

The table below shows the number of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during 1957 and in the preceding three years:-

Nature of Case	Total 1954	Total 1955	Total 1956	Total 1957	1957		
					Male	Female	Age Distribution
Measles	---	127	2	215	117	98	Under 1 yr. 4 1 yr. 19 2 yrs. 29 3 yrs. 28 4 yrs. 31 5-9 yrs. 103 10-14 Yrs. 1
Whooping Cough	---	2	7	11	4	7	1 yr. 3 2 yrs. 3 3 yrs. 1 4 yrs. 1 5-9 yrs. 2 25 & over 1
Pneumonia	1	4	1	6	1	5	15-44 yrs. 1 45-64 yrs. 1 65 & over 4
Scarlet Fever	---	2	4	2	1	1	3 yrs. 1
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	4	6	17	---	17	---
Dysentery	---	7	20	---	---	---	---
Food Poisoning	---	---	3	43	7	2	15-44 yrs. 2 65 & over 2
Acute	---	---	1	---	---	---	---
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	---	1	---	2	2	---	3 yrs. 1 28 years 1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	---	---	---	1	1	---	---
Erysipelas	---	---	---	1	1	---	49 years 1

The large number of cases of measles, coming after the very small number in the previous year, again illustrates the biennial type of incidence characteristic of this disease. With the incidence of other infectious diseases markedly reduced by immunisation procedures and by other fortuitous factors, this disease now is very much the most prevalent of those infectious diseases which used to be so common in early childhood. Fortunately, it was of the usual mild character, and no deaths were attributed to the disease.

The number of cases of whooping cough was larger than in other recent years, but still quite small in relation to the population at risk.

As in all recent years, there were few cases of scarlet fever, and no deaths from the disease.

Puerperal pyrexia, following childbirth, occurred more frequently than in recent years. The patients concerned, however, were not very seriously ill, and the outbreak did not give rise to any undue anxiety.

No cases of dysentery were notified during the year, as contrasted with 20 notified in the previous year, a very welcome improvement in a disease which, though not usually serious in the individual, can cause quite considerable interruption of school attendance.

The position regarding food poisoning was not so fortunate, the number of cases showing a slight increase. The cases reported were confined to two family outbreaks, occurring at the same time in families living quite close to one another. The persons concerned were quite seriously affected, but recovered quickly. Bacteriological investigations were carried out, but did not incriminate any particular food, or show any connection between the two outbreaks.

One of the two cases of poliomyelitis notified occurred in an adult male, who had been in close contact with large numbers of the public during the period immediately prior to the onset of his illness. This patient died. Close contacts were kept under surveillance. Fortunately, no spread of infection occurred among those persons known to be in contact.

TUBERCULOSIS

Only one new case of tuberculosis was notified during the year. This infection was pulmonary one, and occurred in a man of 30 years. No person died from the disease. The improvement on earlier years shown in these figures is more fully reflected in the following table, which shows the number of new cases and deaths from both pulmonary and non-pulmonary infections which have occurred during the years since 1946:-

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1946	5	1	3	1	2	1	-	-
1947	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	-
1948	6	7	2	-	2	3	-	-
1949	9	5	2	-	1	3	-	-
1950	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-
1951	1	3	3	1	-	1	1	-
1952	5	1	-	4	2	1	-	-
1953	2	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
1954	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	1
1955	3	4	1	-	-	-	1	-
1956	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1957	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The absence, for the second consecutive year, of any new case of non-pulmonary infection is particularly pleasing, as it shows the benefits now being derived from the heat-treatment of milk sold in the City. The reduction in the number of new cases of pulmonary disease is equally satisfactory. In view, however, of the reservoir of infected patients still living in the community, it might perhaps be rather optimistic to expect the incidence of the pulmonary form of the disease to remain in all future years at the low figure attained in 1957.

It will be seen from the table that, for the first time, no person died in the City from tuberculosis during the year. This absence of mortality follows a period of reducing mortality, and shows the greatly increased efficiency of treatment during recent years.

The mass miniature radiography unit visited the City during the year, and examined 1,471 persons, operating from Rural Council House and from the Community Centre at Curborough, at different times. Examinations were not, of course, restricted to residents of the City. Five persons were found to have healed tuberculosis lesions in their lungs, and two others to require occasional clinic supervision, but no person was diagnosed as suffering from active tuberculosis.

Apart from this visit, arrangements for diagnosis, treatment and supervision continued as outlined in earlier reports. The improved out-patient facilities now available at St. Michael's Hospital and the ready availability of hospital beds for those patients requiring them are favourable features in the treatment of this disease.

INFLUENZA

The outbreak of influenza which swept through the country in the Autumn reached Lichfield in September, and continued throughout that and the following month. As the disease was, in general so mild that the majority of persons affected did not need to consult their family doctors, no reliable estimate can be given of the total number of persons affected. The number was, however, certainly very large, and imposed great strain on employers of all kinds of labour. The epidemic also affected school work very considerably, up to half the children in various schools being absent during the worst period.

Although, as already stated, the majority of persons developed the disease only in a mild form, others were not so fortunate, and many required medical care. Attention to these persons imposed a very considerable strain on medical practitioners working in the City. As noted in an earlier paragraph, four persons died from influenza or its complications during the year, of whom two died during the month of October, one being a female of 52 years and the other a male of 34 years. It will thus be seen that the epidemic, though generally mild, was not without its tragic side.

Fortunately, the second wave of the epidemic, which was at one time feared, did not materialise.

A limited number of vaccinations against influenza were carried out in key personnel in the health service. It was not possible, however, to draw any firm conclusions as to the value of this preventive measure.

HOUSING

Many more houses and flats were completed in the City during 1957 than in the previous year, the total rising from 42 to 108 the Council being responsible for 85 of these.

In spite of the increased number of council houses completed during the year, the waiting list was only reduced from 490 families at the beginning of the year to 475 families at its close.

So far as clearance of unfit houses is concerned, the year was again one in which steady progress was made in rehousing families from houses which had been the subject of earlier statutory action rather than one in which further statutory action could usefully be undertaken. In pursuance of this policy, the occupants of all but five of the houses in Gresley Row were rehoused, in order to allow clearance of their houses. Undertakings that the houses would remain unused for human habitation were received during the year from the owners in respect of a house beside St. Chad's Church and two houses in Knowle Lane.

Applications were received by the Council during the year for Improvement Grants in respect of 26 houses. Grants were made in all cases except two. The average cost of the improvement schemes, designed to improve the amenities of structurally sound houses, was £487, towards which the Council contributed 50% of the approved cost of improvements. By so doing, the Council encouraged owners to carry out improvements which might not, otherwise, have been economic, and secured, in addition, the carrying out at the same time of repair work, not subject to grant, which might not otherwise have been undertaken.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Statutory action to compel removal to hostel or hospital was again avoided during 1957, this action being reserved, for very extreme cases, in which such action is necessary either to safeguard public health or avoid unnecessary suffering.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Availability of hospital beds showed no marked change as compared with earlier years. Provision appeared to be adequate except in the case of beds for the chronic elderly sick, where the shortage of beds experienced in recent years continued unchanged. Existing arrangements for checking home circumstances of these patients, where necessary to assess relative priority for admission, continued unchanged.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

These continued as in earlier years. The results of examinations carried out were as follows:—

Specimen	Normal	Abnormal	Total
Throat Swabs	3	2	5
Sputa	57	14	71
Faeces	189	11	200
Urine	1	—	1
Pork Pie	1	—	1

In addition to the above, specimens of water from the public baths were sent to the laboratory throughout the season during which the baths were open for public use. Tests were carried out to test the efficiency of the chlorination process used for the sterilisation of the bath water and for any organisms which might have escaped the steralisation process.

WATER SUPPLY

The position continued as in previous years, all but a few houses having piped supply. In all cases, the piped supply was available inside the house.

Special arrangements were made by Lichfield Conduit Lands for the Boy Scouts' Camp established during the period of the World Jamboree, and these arrangements proved most helpful in maintaining satisfactory conditions in the Camp.

All samples examined chemically and bacteriologically during the year proved to be of satisfactory quality.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The following table shows the results of laboratory examination of milk sampled in the City and tested for cleanliness and efficiency of pasteurisation and sterilisation:-

Type of Milk	TEST					
	Moth. Blue (Cleanliness)		Phosphatase (Efficient Pasturisation)		Turbidity (Efficient Sterilisa- tion)	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	30	---	41	---	---	---
Pasteurised	20	1	26	---	---	---
Sterilised	---	---	---	---	23	---
Totals	50	1	67	---	23	---

These results show that milk being sold in the City in 1957 was more satisfactory than that sold in the previous year, there being a notable improvement in the results of the test for cleanliness. They also show that, as in the previous year, the pasteurisation and sterilisation processes were being efficiently carried out.

Much useful work was done during the year in implementing the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. Details of this work are given in the Public Health Inspector's section of the report.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Results of inspections carried out under this act are set out below:-

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

No. of Factories on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
54	86	6	Nil

2. Defects Found and Action Taken

Particulars of Defect	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Defects Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	1	Nil
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-
No certificate as to means of escape in case of fire	-	-	-	-
Emission of fumes	-	-	-	-
Total	8	8	1	Nil

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

GENERAL INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

An interesting feature of this work is the changing attitude of the public to environmental hygiene. Only a few years ago complaints were restricted chiefly to such matters as leaking roofs and worn out dustbins. During 1957 they concerned housing defects, rodent infestations, unsound food, smoke nuisances as well as alleged nuisances from various trade processes. Structural defects were investigated at 152 houses. Many of these were remedied by owners on receipt of informal notices. Difficulties in connection with building labour and materials were less acute than in previous years. Besides the housing visits, 110 inspections were made following miscellaneous complaints. The work involved on re-inspections continues to take up a considerable amount of time.

HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

In addition to 46 inspections under the housing Acts 21 housing applications were investigated where the conditions were thought to be unsuitable for the occupants. Of these 5 were referred to the Housing Committee for special consideration. My reference to the growing tendency for people to own their own accommodation made in the Report for 1956 appears to have been misconstrued by some ratepayers. This development in housing has become more pronounced in recent years. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that the time will arrive when the majority of houses will be owned either by the occupants themselves or by the local authority. Force of circumstance is, of course, responsible for this recent development which is likely to be more in evidence in the near future. Although demolition work did not proceed during the year, it was pleasing to find that many of the sub-standard houses were being vacated. Reconditioning is still restricted to essential repairs in most cases. Structural improvements seem only to be undertaken following the departure of tenants and subsequent changes of ownership resulting in houses becoming owner-occupied. In this respect the experience here is common in the majority of districts. It is generally agreed that the provisions for improvements with the incentive of financial aid have not brought the results which had been expected.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

A notable improvement in the City has followed the replacement of steam locomotives by diesel engines for the passenger service between Birmingham and Derby. The occasional emissions of heavy smoke from goods trains are still a cause of nuisance, especially during unfavourable atmospheric conditions.

During the year 23 observations were made on industrial installations. The owners of one factory have made improvements resulting in an almost complete solution of their problem. In some cases it is difficult to avoid occasional lapses, but constant vigilance on the part of stokers will do much to avoid excessive smoke. There are still premises in the City where remedial measures are urgently necessary.

Although public interest in this problem is greater than in the past, the imperative importance of preventive measures is not yet generally realized. With the growth of industry in the City, the time is opportune for considering the adoption of a Smokeless Zone. In view of the relative size of the City and its importance as a centre for tourists it is desirable that the whole of the district should eventually be a Smoke Free area. A movement in this direction would not only benefit residents but would be an added attraction to visitors interested in the historic and cultural associations of the City. In recent legislation the emphasis is on prevention rather than abatement, since it is now recognised that cures for smoky furnaces are invariably difficult

to put into effect. There is no branch of environmental hygiene where preventive planning makes a greater contribution than it does in the preservation of a clean atmosphere.

RODENT CONTROL

Treatment was carried out at 42 dwelling-houses and 14 trade premises. Only in four cases were further measures found to be necessary for a complete remedy. With the co-operation of the Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks, all the banks of the Minster Pool were subjected to special treatment. The difficulty here, of course, is the amount of bread left about by people feeding wild ducks on the water. If those concerned would be careful to avoid leaving more food than is immediately consumed by the birds, the task of keeping down the visits of rats would be greatly simplified. Although constant vigilance is necessary to keep the activities of rats under control, only minor infestations have occurred in the City.

Repeated appeals to householders owning wooden garden erections, including fowl pens, have brought no appreciable response. At present it seems as if too much reliance is placed upon the free service provided by the City Council for rodent destruction at dwelling-houses. This is the disappointing feature of most services which involve no direct cost to those concerned.

MEAT INSPECTION

Since the resumption of slaughtering on private premises in the City, the carcasses and organs of all animals notified by traders have been inspected. Although seven slaughterhouse licences were granted, only three of the premises concerned are in regular use. The figures show little variation, the only difference between those for the present year and those for 1956 being a slight increase. The following particulars show the number of notifications received and carcasses and organs inspected. These include 230 bovines, 765 sheep and 661 pigs. There was no bovine carcass condemned but the following organs were surrendered voluntarily for destruction. Of these, seven bovine livers were affected by abscesses, 15 by cirrhosis as a result of liver flukes, and 2 by other conditions. One sheep carcass and all organs were destroyed following the effect of suffocation of the animal in transit. Two pig carcasses and all organs were condemned for generalized tuberculosis. In addition there were 10 pigs' heads destroyed for localised tuberculosis and seven pigs' plucks destroyed for cirrhosis.

The general standard of meat retailed in the City continues to be very satisfactory. All bovines slaughtered during the year were either bullocks or heifers. The generalized tuberculosis in the pigs occurred in one batch and appeared to be confined to the herd concerned. The only other evidence of tuberculosis was obviously local in character. There has been no instance of caseous lymphadenitis in the City.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

As a result of improvements carried out by the owners, the meat shops in the City compare favourably with those of other districts. Experience has shown there are no disadvantages with the closed window such as were associated with this mode of display in the past. No doubt the introduction of frozen display counters has helped considerably in this connection. This is a method of food storage which has made a significant contribution to the general standard of food hygiene. Good progress was again made in the provision of water supplies and washing facilities at food premises. Separate wash basins were provided at five general provisions stores, two greengrocers and one meat shop. Hot water and washing facilities were installed at shops dealing with bread and confectionery.

Although the response of traders has been good there is still room for improvements in food handling. On several occasions attention has had to be called to deterioration as result of inadequate protection of food during storage. More attention will have to be given to the imperative importance of quickly disposing of cooked foods. Cold storage does not restore stale articles of food to a fresh condition. In some cases protective clothing worn by food handlers is hardly as clean as it might be, while in others, food is handled by assistants who should be provided with suitable utensils for the purpose. It is significant that some local authorities have now discontinued their clean food campaigns. These organised efforts have a beneficial effect at their commencement. The maintenance of satisfactory standards, however, can be ensured only by constant vigilance on the part of those concerned. Regular inspections must be accepted as essential in this connection.

In addition to unsound meat the undermentioned were voluntarily surrendered for destruction after having been found unwholesome and unfit for human consumption:—

25 Tins Apricots	14 Tins Oranges
19 Tins Beans	8 Tins Mandarin Oranges
2 Tins Beans-in-Tomato	33 Barrells Orange Juice
1 Tin Brisket of Beef	1 Tin Orange Juice
104 lbs. Bacon	21 Tins Peaches
131½ lbs. Cheese	24 Tins Pears
14 Boxes Gryere Cheese	16 Tins Pineapple
2 Packets Cheese Spread	3 Tins Plums
1 Tin Crawfish	4 Tins Pine Cubes
1 Tin Dressed Crab	14 Tins Peas
8 Tins Cherries	2 Jars Pickles
2 Tins Chicken	1 Tin Pilchards
3 Tins Carrots	2 Tins Paste
3 Tins Cream	2 Tins Rhubarb
15 Tins Corned Beef	65 lbs. Sausages
2 Tins Chappie	11½ lbs. Skinless Sausages
5 Tins Dog Food	4 Tins Skinless Beef Sausages
6 Tins Grapefruit	1b. Skinless Sausages
1 Tin Grapes	56½ lbs. Pork Sausages
1 Tin Gherkins	23 Packets Sponge Mix
2 Tins Herrings	2 Tins Stewed Steak
11 Tins Shoulder Ham	1 Tin Beef Steak
7 Tins Kit-E-Kat	1 Tin Casserole Steak
1 Tin Lobster	15 Tins Soup
1 Malt Bread Loaf	1 Tin Tomato Soup
4 Tins Luncheon Meat	1 Tin Ox Tail Soup
14 Tins Milk	2 Tins Vegetable Soup
5 Tins Evaporated Milk	3 Tins Sardines
1 Tin Sild	1 Tin Salmon
26 Tins Peeled Shrimps	128 Tins Tomatoes
31 lbs. Tomatoes	1 Tin Tomato Juice
3 Tins Ox Tongue	1 Tin Lambs Tongue
1 Tin Tongue	1 Tin Jellied Veal

SEWAGE DISPOSAL
(Prepared by the City Surveyor)

1. Sewerage

(a) Foul Sewerage

During the last year the main 30 inch diameter trunk sewer between Netherstowe and the Railway was repaired.

The design of the Trent Valley Sewerage Scheme including a new Pumping Station was almost completed and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for examination for grant purposes under the Town Improvement Act, 1952.

(b) Surface Water Sewerage

The Contract for laying a new 30 inch diameter sewer in S. John St. was commenced in May, 1957 and completed within approximately two months.

A scheme for laying a new 15 inch diameter surface water sewer in Birmingham Old Road was prepared and approved by the City Council to be carried out during the Financial Year 1958/59.

The design of the surface water sewerage of the Trent Valley area was completed during the year, but the decision to proceed to tender was deferred owing to financial restrictions.

2. Sewage Disposal Works

The contract was completed on May 9th, 1958 and the effluent from the Works is now improving consistently. It was hoped that by September, 1958 the effluent would be of a standard acceptable to the Trent Rivers Board.

PUBLIC BATHS.
(Prepared by the City Surveyor)

Efforts were made during the Season to maintain satisfactory water in the pool and a high standard of cleanliness throughout the building. Samples of the water have been taken and analysed by the County Laboratory with satisfactory results.

The service continues to be very popular. Although no economies have been effected the charge to rates has been reduced slightly.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL
(Prepared by the City Surveyor)

Due to the possibility of the site at Ponesfield Road, at present being used for controlled tipping, being required in the near future for school purposes, the City Council considered the question of alternative sites and also the disposal of house refuse by destructor.

The County Education Authorities have been unable to give a precise date when the land would be required for the new Secondary Modern School, but disregarding this there is only approximately three and a half years capacity, and the problem of alternative sites or method for the disposal of refuse will have to be considered during the next few years.

Despite regular tip treatment, several complaints were received during the year of crickets from the tip invading adjoining houses.

The collection service continues to operate efficiently, and weekly collection is still being maintained in spite of an increasing number of new properties.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES
(Prepared by the City Surveyor)

The City Council has been fortunate in obtaining the services of both a reliable male and female cleaner. Nevertheless, cases of abuse still occur, and as a result one or two complaints have been received. The only remedy for this would be full-time attendants, which of course is impossible in public conveniences in a small City.

